



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2021

MEDITATION

Every time you listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls you “Beloved,” you will discover within yourself a desire to hear that voice longer and more deeply. Henri Nouwen

PRELUDE

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kamm, BWV 684 Johann Sebastian Bach
“Christ, Our Lord, Came to the Jordan” (1685-1750)

Jason Kissel, *organist*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Onyeka Anaedozie, *liturgist*

CALL TO WORSHIP GOD (from Psalm 29)

Onyeka Anaedozie, *liturgist*

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God’s name.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor.
The voice of the Lord is over all the waters.
May God give strength to the people.
May God bless the people with peace.
Come, let us worship.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

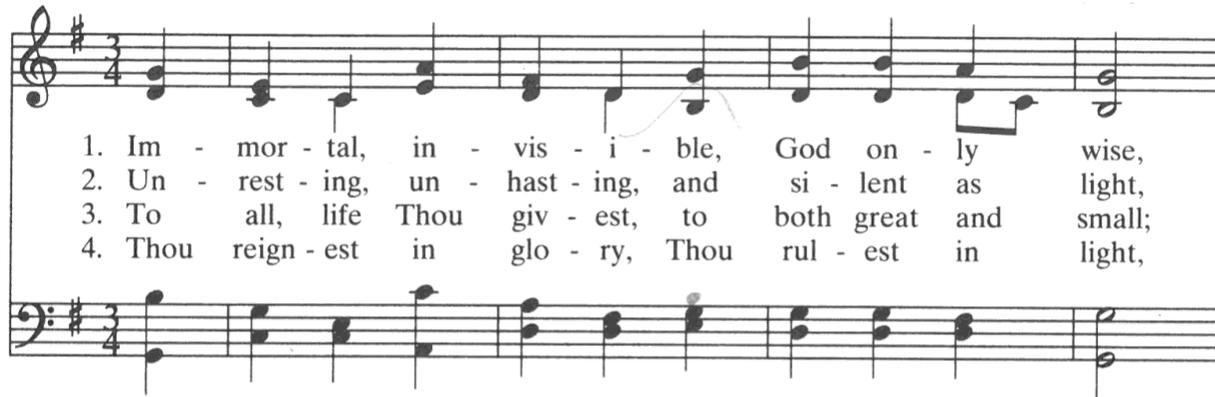
Ever present God, we gather together this day because we want to be together in your presence. We are at the turning of a year still filled with reflections, ponderings and yes, regrets over events of the year past. Our ears are now filled with numerous predictions for the new year. Yet, it is your voice that we need to hear. It is the assurance, the guidance, the hope, the truth that we need to receive from you. So, speak to us! Amen.

Hymn singing is vital to our community life. Although distanced from one another, we can be united through song. Join in singing the hymns with the recorded voices of our Choir and organ.

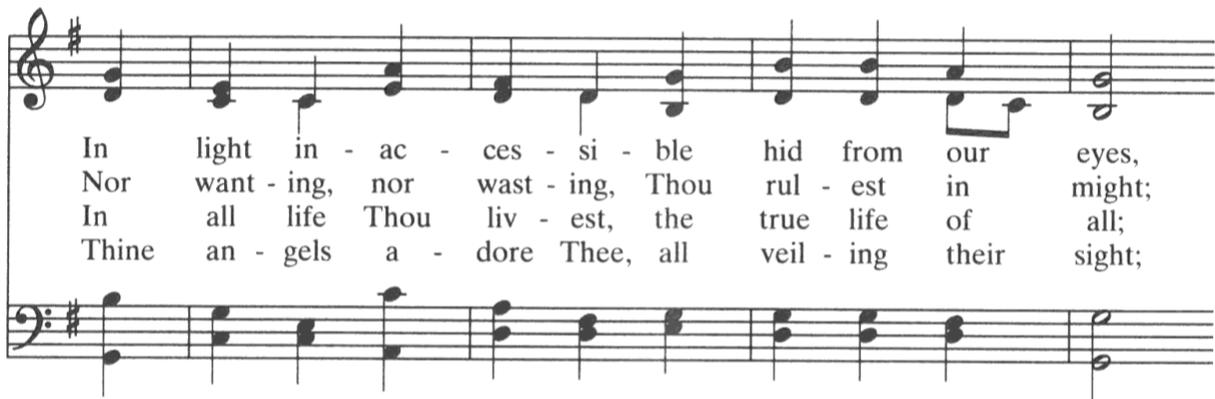
HYMN OF PRAISE 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

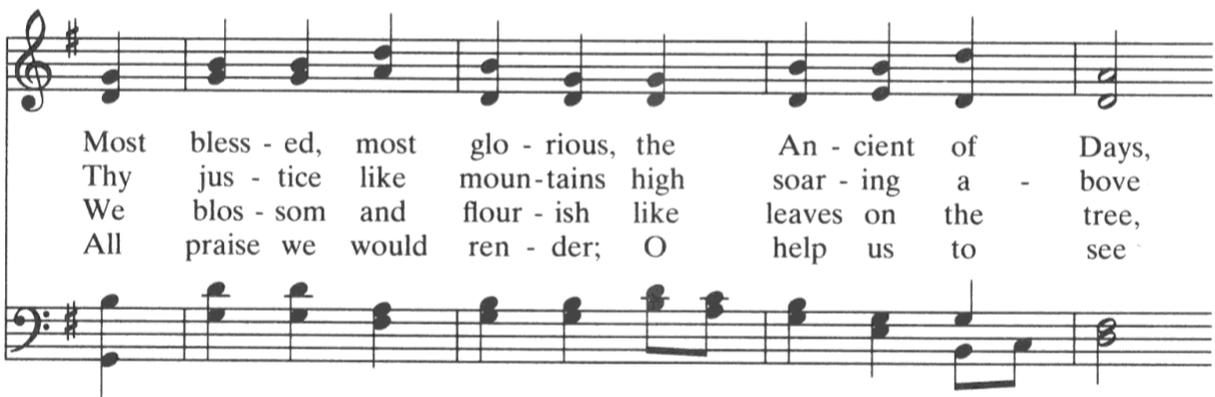
ST. DENIO



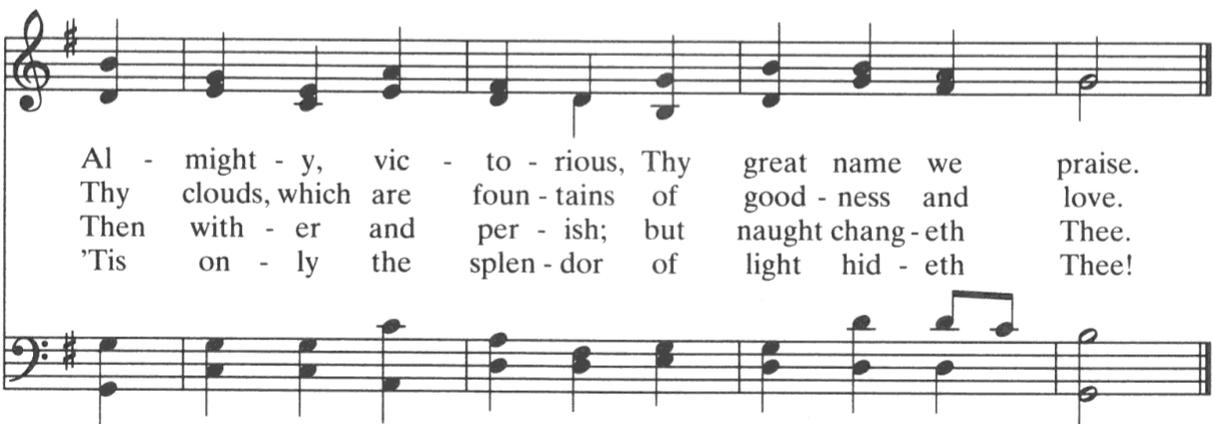
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

CONFESSION

Merciful God, in the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the waters of chaos calling forth order and life. Your Spirit moves over the baptismal waters giving us a life fountain of deliverance, rebirth and the opportunity to make every day a new day. Yet, we remain preoccupied with ourselves, the inner circles to which we belong, ardent ambitions and stubborn individualism. Forgive us for walking by opportunities to welcome, to listen, to heal, to feed, to help. Forgive us for those times when we are complacent and complicit and spend so much energy rationalizing our choices. Help us to listen for that voice that is beyond our own, your voice. Pour your Spirit upon us that we may discern your will and be strengthened to serve you with joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

When we face ourselves and God with the awareness of what we need, we are given the grace to grow and the courage to continue the journey. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting and in that amazing grace, we are forgiven. Live as forgiven people and be at peace. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO OUR FORGIVENESS

We Are Marching in the Light of God

South African

first time, Zulu

Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'.

second time, English

We are marching in the light of God.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Silence in us any voice but your own, and by your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds. Give us the grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1: 4-11

Onyeka Anaedozie, *liturgist*

John the baptizer appeared[□] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with[□] water; but he will baptize you with[□] the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[□] with you I am well pleased."

ANTHEMO Come, Everyone That Thirsteth (*from* Elijah)Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)**Meredith Piplani**, *soprano***Sandra Smith**, *alto***Don Juedes**, *tenor***John McLucas**, *baritone*

Recorded during the service of worship on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

SERMON

"Fitting In"

The Rev. Dorothy LaPenta, *preacher*

HYMN OF RESPONSE 418

God Bless Your Church With Strength

ICH HAUTE TREULICH STILL

1. God, bless Your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be,
2. God, bless Your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive,
3. God, bless Your church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic days,

Up - build Your ser - vants as we work In com - mon min - is - try.
Un - blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit, A - bun - dant - ly a - live.
May we in cha - os shine to light A path - way through life's maze.

Urge us from fledg - ling faith To ven - ture and to soar Through
From You, one ho - ly vine, In free - dom may we grow; Sus -
May jus - tice be our aim, And kind - ness ours to share, In

o - pen skies, to sing the praise Of Christ whom we a - dore.
tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, Your love and peace to show.
hum - ble - ness O may we walk, As - sured our God is there!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please use the chat forum to enter your prayers and we will share those as a part of our communal worship.

O God, in your mercy.

Hear our prayers.

PURPLE RIBBON LIST

01/05/2021	Devonte Davis	4	Male	Unknown
01/02/2021	Dereck Jackson	49	Male	Unknown
01/01/2021	Tiffany Wilson	33	Female	Unknown

Each ribbon represents a life lost to homicide in Baltimore City. We name them each week and hang a purple ribbon on the outside of Park Ave. to remind us to pray for the perpetrators of these acts of violence, and to remind us of our calling to challenge the systemic injustices of our time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day

**our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not**

**into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power,
and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

See invitation to give in the Chat Box on Zoom and Facebook Live.

If you wish to give via Paypal, you will need to open a new tab on your browser.

If you need assistance please request help from either of our E-Ushers:

Allie Pyan alexandra.pyan@gmail.com or Sabrina Schlosser Schumann ssschuma@gmail.com

If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send to the church office at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, 210 West Madison Street, Baltimore MD 21201. Offerings will be processed weekly.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Cause Us, O Lord (*from* Three Ancient Prayers)

Ron Nelson
(b. 1929)

*Recorded during a service of worship in 2016,
by the Sanctuary Choir of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church*

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace
And to awaken to renewed life and strength.
Lord, help us to order our lives by thy counsel,
Lead us in the paths of righteousness.
Lord, be thou a shield about us, protect us,
Save our world from sorrow, from hate, and from war.
Curb thou within us the will to do evil;
Shelter us beneath the shadow of thy wings. Amen.

Text: from a Jewish prayer

DOXOLOGY 591

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Phil Adams

God of the Spirit in all things, move in and among us this day and throughout the year to come, so that our actions will always be showing forth your love for mankind and all creation. Bless these offerings, the words of our mouths, and the works of our hands so that in all things we might reveal your glory and exemplify your mercy. May we always be reassured that we are indeed your beloved and that you are well pleased. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING HYMN 332

Live Into Hope

TRURO

1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re -
 2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight
 3. Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, The right to
 4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, Re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, The right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see The year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear — A vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease To faith and hope and joy and peace.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness and patience. Welcome those who are known and unknown and in your living, share the message that in God, everyone belongs. Crown all that you do in love. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may go into this week abounding in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Choral Song

Samuel Sebastian Wesley
(1810-1876)

ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Dorothy LaPenta, *preacher*

Onyeka Anaedozie, *liturgist*

Jason Kissel, *organist*

Quartet

Marianne Shick, *soprano* ~ **Nick Dogas**, *alto*

Don Juedes, *tenor* ~ **John McLucas**, *baritone*

Offertory Recording

The Sanctuary Choir of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church

2016 Anthem Recording

Meredith Piplani, *soprano* ~ **Sandra Smith**, *alto*

Don Juedes, *tenor* ~ **John McLucas**, *baritone*

~ ~ ~

STAFF

Jason Kissel, DMA, *Minister of Music & Organist*

Taylor Brooks, *tech support*

George Meagher, *Sexton*

Wanda Morgan, *Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator*

The church office is open 8am-4pm Monday-Friday

Office: 410-728-5545 Fax: 410-728-0722

information@firstfranklin.org

January PayPal	\$ 446.00
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CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Because of the recent upsurge in COVID cases, and in order to provide a consistent schedule, Session has decided to suspend worship in the sanctuary for the rest of January. Virtual worship will continue using the Zoom and Facebook platforms. While we regret this step back from in-person worship, we believe it is necessary to protect the health of our guest preachers, others facilitating worship, and worshippers. Session will review this decision by the end of January.

DOROTHY LaPENTA, GUEST PREACHER

The Reverend Dorothy LaPenta (Dottie) is a retired minister member of Baltimore Presbytery. She currently serves as the parish associate at the Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church in Crofton, MD. Prior to retirement, Dottie served as pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Mitchellville, MD in National Capital Presbytery. Prior to going to seminary and graduating in 2002, Dottie was a women's health and pediatric nurse for twenty-three years. During seminary she served as an intern at First and Franklin Street Presbyterian Church. She is always happy for the opportunity to return to First and Franklin. Dottie and her husband, Mike, who is a palliative care/hospice physician live in Odenton MD. They have three daughters and four grandchildren and if asked is always happy to talk endlessly about them. Dottie loves music, reading, taking walks and spending time with creative people.

IN NEED OF PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

With our current Pastor vacancy, if you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office (410) 728-5545 (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm) and we will direct your concern to an Associate Pastor for follow up.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

We will be transitioning back to the use of lay liturgists for Sunday Worship. Liturgists can serve virtually via Zoom as long as they have a stable internet connection.

Open Dates: Feb. 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve. Thank you for considering it.

SESSION UPDATE

At its meeting on December 22nd, Session took three actions of importance. First, because of the continuing surge in COVID cases, worship will continue to be held virtually through January. Please join us using Zoom or Facebook each week.

Secondly, an Interim Pastor Search Committee has been formed, They expect to receive a list of possible candidates from the Presbytery in early January and hope to begin interviews shortly thereafter. The Interim Pastor will lead the church as we go through the process of self-assessment and searching for our next installed minister.

Finally, Session has drafted a reorganized committee structure. It calls for a slightly revised assignment of tasks and results in a smaller number of committees. The plan is now being reviewed by the affected

committees. The proposal will assign at least two elders to each committee but, as with any such plan, will require volunteers from the congregation to serve with the elders in order to get work done. Look for more information on the new committee structure and how you can volunteer in the near future.

THEOLOGY ON TAP | NEXT DATE: to be announced

Join us for a study through Peter Enn's book, "*How the Bible Actually Works*".

"Controversial evangelical Bible scholar, popular blogger and podcast host of The Bible for Normal People, and author of *The Bible Tells Me So* and *The Sin of Certainty* explains that the Bible is not an instruction manual or rule book but a powerful learning tool that nurtures our spiritual growth by refusing to provide us with easy answers but instead forces us to acquire wisdom."

If you are interested in joining this study, please email Sarah Lloyd (saramcgawllloyd17@gmail.com) and let her know that you're interested. The book is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and your local bookstores. If affording the book will be a hurdle, please let us know so we can arrange to help you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OFFERINGS

As we all recognize real concerns for our friends who will experience hardships through this disruption in regular routines, so too, we need to be mindful that your weekly contributions are critical to helping us maintain the financial obligations of the church. Payroll, mortgages, electricity and the rest are needs we must continue to cover, and your continued support of your pledges will be even more important while we are tele-worshipping. In addition to accepting your pledges by mail to the church office, we have recently added a PayPal link to the top of our new website which will allow us to process donations with this link: **GIVE**. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

PASTORAL SEARCH FEEDBACK COMMENTS - link on the front page of our website.

If you have comments or concerns to share with Session as we move forward with the process of discerning the steps to fill our pastoral vacancy, please know that your opinions are valued. If you would like to share anything with us, please click here.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek4zr5zVp8k_b8ZKQhh8APMyVb1ncoEp5-d7aFK9i7wIzN_g/viewform

FOOD PANTRY AT FIRST & FRANKLIN

Another 15 bags were handed out last week. We want to make sure people understand that they do not have to give large amounts. Buying an extra box of pasta or donating \$10 if that is what works for you is impactful and welcome.

If you have the resources to do so, please consider donating non-perishables (see list below) or financial contributions. Please also consider joining us on Saturdays from about 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We continue to staff a food pantry in Reid Chapel **every** Saturday from 12:00- 2:00 p.m. There is a growing flow of neighbors with whom we are building relationships. We have built connections with residents at Westminster House for whom we drop off additional bags of food for those who cannot make the walk to Reid Chapel.

In each grocery bag we pack food for breakfast, jelly and peanutbutter (a good source of protein) for lunch, the makings for a balanced dinner such as beans and rice, pasta and sauce, canned meat, soup, vegetables, and fruit, and a paper goods. We like to add a little fun food, such as popcorn or cookies, for everyone enjoys a treat.

Contributions of shelf stable foods can be brought to Reid Chapel every Saturday between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. If shopping is difficult for you, monetary donations earmarked food pantry may be sent to the church and we will shop for you.

We are currently low on: canned milk, spaghetti, canned meats and dry & canned beans

Here is the list of foods we try to provide:

Apple sauce, canned fruit and dried fruit
Rice and beans
Peanut butter and jelly
Cereal or oatmeal and canned or powdered milk
Tuna fish and other canned meats
Spaghetti or pasta and tomato sauce
Soup
Canned vegetables
Popcorn and cookies
Paper towels
Toilet paper

How else can you help? We need volunteers to help collect and distribute food every Saturday. Sabrina Schumann is coordinating the volunteers. You may reach her by email at ssschuma@gmail.com or phone 240-481-6929. You can also help by spreading the word to those you know who are facing food insecurity.

Thank you,
The Peacemaking Committee

THE SPIRE SERIES

Do you know that First & Franklin has a YouTube page? There, you may view performances from the 2020 summer series of mini concerts, all recorded live in First & Franklin's sanctuary. You may also revisit last May's virtual piano marathon concert! Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2QwYlynh7VYhxAYt-9cm2g>

You can also view the August Spire Series recordings on Facebook.

MORNING PRAYER | 7:00am

Please join us online: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Zoom Event Click: [MORNING PRAYER](#)

DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY?

Or did you want to re-visit a particular sermon from our congregational life?

Please visit: [Sermons](#)

Prayers from 1/3/2021

Prayers for those starting new year's resolutions that they don't get frustrated and forget why God loves them, not for their waistline or their bank account. [Mike]

Prayers of comfort and peace for Dana Durrett and family, upon the passing of her husband, Gary. [Paul]

A joy that Becca's Dad and sister have both received the Covid vaccine. [Becca]

Prayers for my cousin Sam who is coping with serious depression right now. [Charley]

Prayers for the family and friends of Sam Althans, who died suddenly at the age of 26. May his family and girlfriends Emily come together and heal. [Sarah]

For Betty's Mom who has fallen again and is in isolation due to the Covid situation at her facility. [Betty]

Gratitude at the recovery of Jeanette Anders who is home from the hospital. [Audrey]

Gratitude that the Huse family is recovering from Covid. [Sabrina]

Praying the+ doctors can help me with fatigue and depression. [Marla]

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community and those working the food pantry where we gave away 13 bags on Saturday to those in need. [Randy]

For our sister church in Cuba. [Betty]

For Dorothy Janzen as she recovers from shingles. [Betty]

Prayers for our neighbor, Chris, who is in St. Joe's with Covid. [Beth]

Prayers for our gifted and courageous young Mayer, Brandon Scott, as he takes on all the challenges facing our beloved city. [John]

Prayers that as we commune in our separate spaces we can rejoice in the New Year and be a strength with faith in our endeavors to be a healing group to those around us. [Maggy]

Please pray for Jim Peters and his family as they mourn the passing of Jim's father Lydon, who died on 01/02 at the age of 93 from natural causes. [Rod]

Please pray for Paula Crews sister who fell and broke her hip.

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]

Prayers from 12/27/2020

A prayer of thanks for Rev. Barchi and her amazing sermon. [Audrey]

Prayers for our nation. [Susan]

Prayers for the end of 2020 and the joy of a new calendar. [Maggy]

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community and those working the food pantry where we gave away 15 bags on Saturday to those in need. [Randy]

For our sister church in Cuba. [Betty]

Prayers for Chris, a florist friend who has Covid. [Stephen]

Prayers for the people of Nashville after the recent explosion. [Mike]

Thanks for this community who have blessed me with notes and calls as I recover. [Betty]

Gratitude for the wonderful sermon. Gratitude for being able to snuggle my niece for the first time since she came home from the hospital. Prayers that soon the country and globe will be able to safely reunite. [Sabrina]

For Jeanette Anders, mother of Rol's children, at GBMC on oxygen with complications of Covid. [Audrey]

Prayers for David and Sheela Schroll as they recover from Covid. [Jim]

Prayers for Laura's mother who suffered a serious kidney infection and surgery, as she heals at home. [Laura]

Prayers for my cousin Brad who has lost his sight in one eye, and that the doctors find the cause. [Allie]

Prayers for Marla who is dealing with medical issues regarding medication and side effects.

Prayers that Becca's dad will be able to socialize more as his isolation is increasing his dementia. [Stephen]

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]